



LAW LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

THE U.S. CONGRESS is the primary recipient of the Law Library's research and reference services in foreign, international, and comparative law and in reference assistance about American law. The world's largest legal and legislative library, the Law Library is also the de facto national law library as it serves other branches of government and the general public. During fiscal 2000, the Law Library delivered 825 research reports on foreign and international law for Congress, executive agencies, and the judiciary. The Law Library staff responded to 120,196 inquiries from all of its constituencies. Of this number, 84,991 were assisted in person; 18,140 were assisted by telephone; and 17,065 were assisted by fax, mail, or e-mail.

DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN A CHANGING WORLD ORDER

The Law Library's staff played a strategic role in coordinating a Bicentennial symposium titled "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order." The chief justice and four U.S. Supreme Court justices were among the participants at this international symposium held in the Library's Coolidge Auditorium March 7–9, 2000, with a closing session at the New York University School of Law on March 10, 2000. Law Library staff members coordinated the symposium logistics, events, and publicity in cooperation with the New York

The Librarian of Congress (*left*) accompanies Chief Justice William Rehnquist (*right*) to the “Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order” symposium. (*Photo by Carol Powers*)



University School of Law and produced a symposium poster depicting treasures from the Law Library collection.

The free, public symposium attracted participants from all over the world and was simultaneously broadcast live on the Library's Web site. Judges, legislators, legal scholars, and experts in various fields from twenty-one countries analyzed democracy and the rule of law in the context of the state and human rights, corporate power and the global economy, and national sovereignty. Major topics also covered the roles of women, responsible and fair use of natural resources, religion and governance, and multiethnic and multiracial states in terms of democracy and the rule of law. In addition to receiving support from the Library of Congress and the New York University School of Law, the symposium was funded through the generosity of Anthony and Beatrice Welters; William S. Hein & Co.; Court Record Services, Inc.; and the Friends of the Law Library (in association with gifts from the Fannie Mae Foundation, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, the West Group, and LEXIS-NEXIS). CQ Press, a division of Congressional Quarterly, Inc., contracted with the Library to publish the proceedings by 2001.

CONGRESSIONAL SERVICES

A total of 551 research reports were prepared specifically for Congress by the Law Library's Directorate of Legal Research. The Law Library continued to keep members of Congress and their staff members up to date with developments around the world through the monthly *World Law Bulletin* and a new research series exclusively for Congress, the *Foreign Law Briefs* (FLB). The FLB series began with *Hong Kong: Outlook for the Continued Independence of the Courts*; *Germany: Deregulation of the Electricity Sector*; *Israel: Campaign Finance Regulation of Advocacy Activities by Non-Profit Organizations*; and *France: Adapting to the Legal Framework to Promote Electronic Commerce*.

The following are examples of the year's most important research completed for Congress by the Law Library's Directorate of Legal Research:

Congressional Hearings and Investigations. Reports were prepared in support of hearings or investigations by congressional committees on (1) the laws of various nations on bank secrecy, money laundering, and cooperation with U.S. investigations to combat such activity in various jurisdictions; (2) the disclosure of the ownership of corporations in Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, the Channel Islands, and Panama, among others; (3) the regulation of foreign exchange bureaus in the United Kingdom; (4) the disclosure of beneficial ownership of bank accounts in France, Germany, and the European Union (EU); (5) the regulations applicable to U.S. bank operations in France, Germany, and the United Kingdom; (6) the French court investigations of a multinational corporation; (7) information and pleadings in the English High Court in cases filed against a former ruler of an African country; (8) English litigation against Lloyd's of London; (9) certain investigations and convictions for fraud in the Republic of Ireland; and (10) human rights issues.

Criminal Law and Procedure. The topics researched included Quebec's drug offender treatment policy, German security laws, sex discrimination regulations in the EU, Colombian laws prohibiting juveniles from entering into combat service, data protection cases in Germany, Canadian drug legislation, Turkish criminal code, Colombia's judicial system, and gun control in Colombia.

Family Law. Strong congressional interest focused on domestic law, including several requests on family law in Cuba and its Children's Code arising from the case of the Cuban child Elian Gonzalez. Also of interest were issues on the legitimization of children born out of wedlock in Italy; adoption laws in Burkina Faso and Canada (New Brunswick); marriage law in El Salvador and Guinea; and Muslim marriages in Canada.

Human Rights. Several Law Library attorneys gave expert witness testimony on religious liberty legislation in various countries at the request of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). The staff members wrote comprehensive reports on the laws of Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and the United Kingdom. The reports were published by the Commission in *Religious Liberty: The Legal Framework in Selected OSCE Countries* (May 2000). Further reports were prepared on religious affiliation information required in the national identity cards of nationals of twenty countries. Other human rights issues covered for Congress included the extraterritorial jurisdiction over the human rights offenses in Germany, the persecution of Christians in India, and the rights of U.S. citizens to appeal to the European Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg.

Immigration and Nationality. Studies included immigration law in Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom relating to a charge on public services and affidavits of support filed on behalf of prospective immigrants. They also covered dual nationality laws in Ireland and Israel, searches of U.S. citizens at the Canadian border, and citizenship requirements in the election laws of various countries.

Impeachment. Law Library reference librarians collaborated with Congressional Research Service (CRS) staff members to assemble an extensive collection of impeachment materials—held for reference use only—and compiled a detailed, annotated bibliography on the topic. The Reading Room and National Digital Law Library staff also prepared a presentation on the Century of Lawmaking Web site featuring historic and online bibliographic impeachment materials.

Legal and Judicial Infrastructure. In response to congressional inquiries, the Law Library prepared reports on the legal system of India, the court system in Uganda and Nigeria, the laws on the judiciary in Ukraine, the procedures governing the redistricting of electoral constituencies in various countries, the civil law traditions within the common law system in Puerto Rico, and the national budget system of Gabon.

Taxation. The Law Library provided Congress with reports on taxation of expatriates in Australia, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, as well as taxation of foreign companies and mining in Peru. The reports also addressed tax credits for motion pictures in Canada, a proposed new tonnage tax to promote merchant shipping in the United Kingdom, German foundation laws, Puerto Rican tax and labor laws, and Nazi-era exit taxation policy in Germany.

Trade Relations, Corporation Law, and Consumer Protection. Congress was provided with reports on telecommunications policies in several European countries, along with EU regulations on human exposures to electromagnetic fields. Several reports covered deregulation of electricity in Germany, Ireland's trade preference system, jurisdiction over border tolls in Canada, and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and wage agreements in private industries. Other reports addressed regulation of water utilities in France and the United Kingdom, Ukraine law on currency transfers from abroad, trade relations with China, and patented medicines in Canada. Also Congress viewed reports on corporate responsibility in Hong Kong, Singapore, and the United Kingdom; seat belt standards for buses in the EU and Australia; and Canadian regulations on oil and gas drilling.

Treaties and Conventions. In fulfilling its role in the ratification of international treaties, the U.S. Senate requested the assistance of the Law Library on several topics such as the Hague Convention on parental abduction of children in several countries, adoption law and procedures in twenty countries, Australian and Canadian laws on the Hague Convention on inter-country adoptions, and EU agreements promoting law reforms in Russia.

Other Congressional Services. During the year, members of the Public Services staff answered a total of 2,056 in-person congressional reference requests. Approximately 175 congressional offices requested in-depth information and materials from the Law Library Reading Room. The Reading Room was visited 132 times by congressional staff members during the extended, congressional-service-only hours.

The Law Library conducted fifteen seminars, which were attended by 353 congressional staff members, titled "Fundamentals of Legal Research" and "Legislative History and Statutory Research." The Law Library staff members conducted forty-two briefings, which were attended by 233 congressional staff members, to describe the Law Library's special services for Congress. In addition, 586 informational and legal research packets were distributed to congressional staff members. The Law Library staff also provided special tours of the Library for congressional constituents.

NONCONGRESSIONAL CONSTITUENTS

During fiscal 2000, the Law Library continued to serve its noncongressional constituents, including federal agencies, the judicial branch, and the public. Law Library attorneys and specialists wrote 274 research reports in response to requests from the executive and judicial branches.

The Law Library continued its research work for the Immigration and Nat-

uralization Service (INS) of the Justice Department. INS reimburses the Law Library, at the equivalent of the salary of one staff member, to obtain multinational legal research. During the year, eighty reports and four oral responses were provided to twenty-four INS offices on questions concerning fifty-one nations. The Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) frequently relied on Law Library research, as did the National Archives; the Social Security Administration; and the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Treasury, and Labor. Extensive legal research on Russia, including translation services, was provided to the Librarian of Congress.

Members of the public received reference assistance, primarily through the Law Library Reading Room, on a wide variety of matters, especially involving family, commercial, and criminal law matters.

GLOBAL LEGAL INFORMATION NETWORK

During the year, progress was made on the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN), an online parliament-to-parliament cooperative exchange of laws and legal material from some thirty-five countries. Enhancements were made to the GLIN administrator's functions to increase access and control of account information across the entire network for all members. A template for the input of metadata for case law or judicial decisions was developed and will be broadly reviewed by the whole network. A technique was developed to handle large, full-text files such as constitutions or legal codes without affecting the integrity of the document. The Law Library made progress on a plan to add identification marks (eXtensible Markup Language [XML] tags) to electronic legal documents, and a prototype presentation was given at the Seventh Annual GLIN Project Directors' Meeting. Among other technical advances, demonstrations showed how GLIN might attach multimedia files to the laws, such as congressional debates or legislative history.

The Seventh Annual GLIN Directors' Meeting, held September 5–8, included delegations from twelve nations plus the United Nations, the World Bank, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). One of the highlights of the meeting was the adoption of GLIN's new, more formal, draft charter, which provides new procedures, as well as rights and obligations of the members. Another highlight of the meeting was a report from the MERCOSUR nations (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) that, in an earlier regional meeting, agreed to input GLIN summaries in regional languages, as well as English. Participants in the Washington meeting traveled to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center to view GLIN's satellite communication developments.

The Law Library worked with various institutional partners to enhance GLIN. NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center helped to migrate a copy of the GLIN database to Goddard, aimed at creating a mirror site. In addition to the regional meeting of the GLIN MERCOSUR members, which was sponsored by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the IDB provided funding for delegations from Argentina and Paraguay to attend the annual directors' meeting in Washington. A joint proposal with the World Bank to input court decisions in GLIN was submitted to several funding agencies. The World Bank also completed its technical assistance program in Guatemala. Its support contributed to the Guatemalan GLIN station's outstanding performance, which resulted in Guatemala's receiving the 2000 GLIN Model Station award. A draft memorandum of understanding was completed that will be the basis of a co-operative effort between the Organization of American States (OAS) and GLIN. Within that framework, the OAS will contribute treaties and directives of the OAS secretariat.

During fiscal 2000, three GLIN training sessions were held, and they brought GLIN team members from Albania, Guatemala, Paraguay, and the OAS to the Library for GLIN training sessions. For the first time, Paraguay began to transmit its laws to the database, making it a fully contributing member of the network.

GLIN was exhibited at a World Bank conference in July and at the annual American Bar Association (ABA) meeting held in New York, with the support of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library. GLIN was also exhibited at the annual meeting of the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries (CARALL) in Antigua, where adopting GLIN as the system for CARALL's proposed regional legal information exchange was discussed. During the year, the Law Library staff gave twenty GLIN demonstrations to visitors from China, Denmark, Georgia, Japan, Latvia, Moldova, South Africa, and Uzbekistan.

DIGITIZATION EFFORT

The Law Library's digitization effort, "A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774-1873," continued to make progress during the year. Working with the National Digital Library's program staff, the project team digitally converted, completed postproduction processing, and released 528,164 digital images representing approximately 307 volumes of historical legislative collections, including volumes of the House and Senate journals, congressional debates, and laws enacted covering the seventeenth through the forty-second Congresses (1821 through 1873). Additional releases are scheduled periodically during the next two fiscal years. The project

currently includes 670,266 digital items (constituting the contents of 419 physical volumes).

COLLECTION CIRCULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Law Library circulated 288,402 items during fiscal 2000. The Law Library's sole recommending officer and selecting official for U.S. federal and state legal and legislative collections reviewed nearly 500 serial titles, more than 3,000 monographic titles, 502 items received by the Exchange and Gift Division, 267 foreign and international titles, and 61 titles containing machine-readable disks. The Reading Room received 24 serial titles, 403 monographic titles, 55 foreign and international titles, and 4 titles containing machine-readable disks.

In addition to their research and reference duties, the Law Library's foreign legal specialists and analysts continued to develop collections related to their areas, adding many needed items to the collections. In recognition of Guatemala's participation in GLIN, Law Library Collection Services worked with the Library's Photoduplication Service to complete the microfilming of back issues of Guatemala's official legal gazette.

During the year, 1,288 rare items were cataloged, and 7 items received conservation treatment. More than 120 nonlaw titles were identified and withdrawn from the Law Library's Rare Book Room and sent to the Conservation Office as a preliminary step before being transferred to the area designated in the subbasement stacks for overflow rare books. Five boxes of law materials from the Wakefield Collection, mostly British county land records sent to the United States for safekeeping during World War II, were removed from the Law Library for eventual return to Great Britain with the other works in that collection.

Major acquisitions included the legal materials for Caribbean jurisdictions, the first complete codification acts and regulations for the Province of Ontario, the Council on Foreign Relations archive publications (1922–1998), the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* (1965–1998), and a *Collection of Trials* from the holdings of the University of Missouri Law Library. The retrospective holdings (1891–1970) of the records and briefs for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals are being purchased on microfilm, which will enhance the Law Library's other extensive microform collections for the U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeal. Other microfiche purchases were the *Australian Session Laws* (1901–1979 and continuation) and the *Acts of the Parliament of Canada* (1901–1979 and continuation).



Celebrating Law Day 2000 at the Library of Congress are (from left) former Senator Charles McC. Mathias, Law Librarian Rubens Medina, Law Day founder Charles Rhyne, Margaret Hennebry, executive vice president of World Jurist Association, and Able Krash, president of the Friends of the Law Library of Congress. (Photo by Willie Swinson Jr.)

SCHOLARS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

The Law Library continued its Scholars-in-Residence program and worked closely with the Friends of the Law Library, the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL), and the ABA and its Standing Committee on the Law Library, among others (see also appendix D: Advisory Bodies).

The Friends of the Law Library of Congress honored Charles F. C. Ruff with its Annual Wickersham Award at the U.S. Supreme Court. The group also underwrote the Law Library's annual Law Day celebration featuring Charles S. Rhyne, the originator of Law Day. The Law Library's annual reception during the yearly AALL meeting was also underwritten by the Friends of the Law Library. AALL featured the Law Library's Law Day speaker, Charles S. Rhyne, in its *Spectrum* publication. The Law Library's staff participated in the Nineteenth Annual Course of the IALL in Dublin, Ireland. The staff continued its representation on the IALL's Board of Directors and on the official journal of the IALL, the *International Journal of Legal Information*. The ABA provided support for the Law Library staff to attend the ABA yearly meeting. The

Law Library was represented at the ABA Annual Meeting in London, England, titled “Common Law, Common Bond.”

The Law Library was also represented at meetings of the North-East Foreign Law Librarians Cooperative Group and the Annual Meeting of the American Society of International Law (ASIL). It was active during the year in the Federal Law Librarians’ Special Interest Section (SIS) of the Law Librarians’ Society of Washington, D.C., and it hosted the SIS’s annual meeting and election on May 23, 2000.